

15 December 1976


MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member, National Foreign Intelligence Board

SUBJECT : NIE 11-3/8-76: Soviet Forces for  
Intercontinental Conflict Through  
the Mid-1980s

Approved for Release

Date

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5. The Backfire issue was even more hard-fought this year than last. There are substantial disagreements over the capabilities of the aircraft and over Soviet intentions for its employment against the US. All except DIA, Army, and Air Force believe it unlikely that Backfire would be assigned to intercontinental missions. DIA, Army and Air Force contend the Backfire clearly has intercontinental capabilities and these should be the prime factor in assessing its missions. Air Force further believes that some portion of the Backfire force will be assigned missions against the continental US.

